

My name is Irene Engel and I am a retired state employee from the University of Connecticut Health Center (UCHC).

I am a retired registered nurse who has been employed by other area hospitals as well as at UCHC.

I am a patient at UCHC and have experienced health care at other area hospitals and I have nothing but words of praise for my care regime at John Dempsey Hospital.

I have had many out-patient procedures done there and they have always been done with more than the average explanation and teaching.

I am a nine-year breast cancer survivor and had radiation; both surgery and radiation was at John Dempsey. It was very convenient for my family to take me to Farmington for treatments as we all live in Avon and appreciate having such a great facility in the valley and not having to drive into the city on a daily basis.

I was diagnosed ten years ago as a type 2 Diabetic and I go to a specialist at UCHC, I also have access to a nutritionist, as well as educational classes and information.

This past year I had to have open heart surgery and once again returned to UCHC for my surgery and recovery. I am pleased to be here today feeling better than in quite a few years. Once again my family was pleased with the care, ease of parking, and location of this facility.

I have referred many of my friends and colleges to this institution and they have all had positive experiences and many have attended the Discover Series Program and Mini Medical school lectures and programs, as well as belonging to the former Women's Health Program. I would be remiss if I did not mention the research that also helps provide better care and knowledge.

I personally feel that it would be a huge loss to the well being of the citizens of Connecticut if the necessary change for John Dempsey Hospital was not supported in this proposal and I encourage you to please pass HB5027 AN ACT CONCERNING THE UNIVERSAITY OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH CENTER FACILIITY PLAN.